

Visit our Web site at:
www.michigan.gov/corrections
and select the MPRI icon.



To submit information for
this newsletter, please forward
to Yasmin Green at
ygreen@publicpolicy.com

Contact Information:
Office of Offender ReEntry
(517) 373-3653
www.michigan.gov/reentry

**Public Policy Associates
(PPA)**

Le'Ann Duran
(517) 485-4477
lduran@publicpolicy.com

Pilot Site Questions:
**Michigan Council on Crime
& Delinquency (MCCD)**
Robb Burroughs
(517) 482-4161
rburroughs@miccd.org

Work Group and Committee
Questions:
**Policy & Strategic Planning
Administration**
Jim Yarborough
(517) 335-3638
yarboroj@michigan.gov

MPRI ENEWS Editor:
Judy Gold
goldjc@michigan.gov

MPRI ENEWS

Vol. I, Issue 1
April 2006

*The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative;
Creating Safer Neighborhoods and Better Citizens*

This issue of the MPRI ENEWS marks the launch of our new electronic newsletter and replaces the former print newsletter. ENEWS will be delivered to you electronically each quarter. Everyone involved with the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) will now receive electronic updates and relevant information on re-entry work happening throughout the state of Michigan. As we receive your feedback and broaden our understanding of the information you want to see, the format may change slightly to accommodate the presentation of a variety of information. We encourage all of our stakeholders to share information—from government and state agencies—foundations, faith-based and community-based organizations, and law enforcement and advocacy groups—we want to hear from you! Please submit your ideas for the next issue of MPRI ENEWS by July 3, 2006. Email your articles and information to Yasmin Green at the following email address: ygreen@publicpolicy.com.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please send an e-mail to our editor, Judy Gold, at the following email address, goldjc@michigan.gov, to request that your name be removed from our distribution list.

Although no approach will completely eliminate crime, the MPRI reduces crime and the rate of those returning to prison.

Table of Contents

	Page		Page
The MPRI	2	MPRI Meeting Schedule	4
An Integrated Approach	2	Spotlight	4
Statewide Implementation.....	2	Upcoming Events	6
MPRI Sites	3	Resources	6
Public Education.....	3	State Partner Agencies	7
Funding	3	Contact Us	8

The MPRI



The primary goal of the MPRI is to increase public safety and reduce crime. It is a statewide strategic approach to create safer neighborhoods and better citizens through the delivery of a seamless plan of services, programming, support, and supervision—from the time of entry to prison through transition, reintegration, and aftercare—to returning prisoners and their communities. Investing in prevention, the MPRI takes a proactive stance to re-entry, preparing both the prisoner and the community *before* re-entry occurs.

An Integrated Approach

“Strategies to reduce crime in the long run demand creative and multifaceted approaches, which incorporate the best thinking of educators, social service agency directors, and community leaders. Long-term strategies to reduce and prevent crime will produce results in the short term, as well as for years after their initial implementation, making them a smart investment for the future of Michigan.”

Governor Jennifer Granholm

The Initiative is overseen by a State Policy Team comprised of cabinet-level leaders in five state departments—the Michigan Department of Corrections, the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the Michigan Department of Human Services, and the Michigan Department of Education. Through a grant from the JEHT (Justice, Equality, Human Dignity, and Tolerance) Foundation, three partner agencies—Public Policy Associates, Incorporated, the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, and the Michigan Department of Corrections—provide oversight and technical assistance to the MPRI at the state level. Additionally, an Advisory Council comprised of more than 1,600 citizens provides advice and counsel to the State Policy Team via communication through Work Groups and the Executive Management Team (EMT). These members act as a conduit for communication and a mechanism for building community support. Three Work Groups perform specific issue and/or policy tasks for the MPRI. The EMT manages the activities and progress of the Work Groups, while MPRI Committees address critical subjects across a number of areas. At the heart of community organization and local issues are the Community Coordinators. They coordinate local teams, stimulate local partnerships with nonprofit and community organizations, and provide local administration.

Statewide Implementation



In 2005, the MPRI established local sites in 8 jurisdictions covering 18 counties. A community coordinator was hired in each site. These 18 counties have over 3,500 prisoners that are currently being reviewed for parole. Each of the first-round sites is fully operational. They include:

Berrien County	Genesee County	9-Co. Rural Region	• Kalkaska County
Capital Area	Kalamazoo County	• Antrim County	• Leelanau County
• Clinton County	Kent County	• Benzie County	• Missaukee County
• Eaton County	Macomb County	• Crawford County	• Otsego County
• Ingham County	Wayne County	• Grand Traverse Co.	• Wexford County

In February 2006, seven sites were added to include the remaining urban communities and a community coordinator was hired for each of the new sites. The sites added in 2006 include:

Calhoun County	Muskegon County	Saginaw County	Washtenaw County
Jackson County	Oakland County	St. Clair County	

In 2007, the remaining rural counties will be added as the final step of statewide implementation.

MPRI Sites

Strong and sustained local capacity is the single most critical aspect of the MPRI implementation process. The pilot site communities will become dedicated champions of improved offender re-entry that will result in less crime through determined and specific preparation for inmates who will transition back to their communities.

*Excerpt from Issue Brief
entitled; Coordinating
Community Development:
The Heart of MPRI*

Round-One Expansions – Each Round-One site will take a second wave of prisoners who have been designated by the Parole Board as MPRI participants. The Office of Offender ReEntry reports there are 158 offenders participating in the MPRI program at pilot site prison facilities; 24 have successfully completed the program and are on active parole status.

Mentally Ill Inmate ReEntry Demonstration – A special mentally ill inmate re-entry demonstration project is currently underway. Fifty parolees with mental health needs have been designated to receive a three-month assessment and participate in a prerelease demonstration designed to increase the likelihood of success upon release.

Gender Responsiveness – Elmhurst Home in Wayne County, with a capacity to serve 64 women, is an example of a “gender responsive” program. The program uses a cognitive restructuring approach that reflects a gender-specific, trauma-informed model which is strength based. As the National Institute of Corrections notes, the prevalence of trauma among this population requires an awareness of the impact of the abuse in the lives of women offenders and the adaptation of programming to prevent inadvertent re-traumatization.

(TOP) Day Reporting – Transition of Prisoners (TOP) launched a day-reporting program for 35 men and 25 women returning to Wayne County. This program includes mentoring, building life skills, mitigating substance abuse, and providing employment services to prisoners transitioning from prison to Wayne County.

Public Education

“MPRI is about improving public safety. If all MPRI communications start with that message, the public and elected officials are likely to give the initiative a strong mandate.”

Jeff Padden, President
Public Policy Associates

MPRI Public Education and Outreach Campaign – In collaboration with the MDOC and other state and local partners, the MPRI Communications Specialist, Yasmin Green, has developed the MPRI Public Education and Outreach Campaign. This plan describes the tools and products to be developed in 2006 to support public education, outreach, and marketing for MPRI. The campaign is designed to expand public awareness and foster understanding for the MPRI in local communities while laying the groundwork among individuals and constituent groups to build a solid knowledge base and support among opinion shapers and community leaders. Components of the Public Education and Outreach Campaign include local site visits and assessments, as well as training and technical assistance.

Funding

“We see this project [the MPRI] as the gold standard of excellence for re-entry programs in this country.”

*Bob Crane, President
The JEHT Foundation*

JEHT Foundation Challenge Grant – The JEHT Foundation's Board of Directors approved a grant of up to \$1 million to match funds from community foundations in the 15 pilot sites of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative. The match for the first year will be dollar for dollar for funds committed by the community foundation to re-entry programming in the pilot sites. To be eligible for the matching funds, programming must be coordinated through the local MPRI Steering Team in each site. JEHT will continue this partnership over the next several years if this effort is successful. Each community foundation that participates in the match program will receive an outright grant of \$5,000 to cover administrative costs. There is no deadline for submission of a proposal to the JEHT Foundation. For more information on the application requirements, contact Marlene Saez at JEHT: (212) 965-0400 or at msaez@jehtfoundation.org.

MPRI Meeting Schedule

Work Group and Executive Management Team Meetings

- ❖ June 15, 2006
- ❖ September 21, 2006
- ❖ December 14, 2006

Committee Meetings

- ❖ April 20, 2006
- ❖ May 18, 2006
- ❖ July 20, 2006
- ❖ August 17, 2006
- ❖ October 19, 2006
- ❖ November 16, 2006

Resource Teams Meetings

- ❖ June 1, 2006
- ❖ September 7, 2006
- ❖ December 7, 2006

Work Group Structure Updates

In January 2006, the Work Groups began meeting quarterly. Work Group meetings now use facilitators instead of co-chairs, and trained recorders staff both the Committees and the Work Groups.

Work Groups meet at the same time/location on a specified date, the last month of each quarter, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., followed by a 90-minute committee of the whole meeting to share information across all phases of the Model.

The Executive Management Team will meet at 1:00 p.m. (same time/location as Work Groups and Committees) to review the various recommendations and inputs from the Work Groups and Committees that report to them. The State Policy Team will meet twice per year to consider adaptations of the Model.

- Pilot Sites have been asked to provide information to the Work Groups, for quarterly meetings, that indicate successes, challenges, needs, and recommendations regarding their implementation of the Model.
- Departmental "Implementation Resource Teams" at MDOC, MDLEG, MDCH, and MDE react to policy and process needs for MPRI within each agency and interpret the MPRI Model. The Implementation Resource Teams meet on a quarterly basis.
- All meetings will be held at the Lansing Community College, West Campus, MTEC. The facility is located in Delta Township at Sanders Road and Cornerstone Drive.

For more information about the MPRI Work Groups and Committees, contact Jim Yarborough at (517) 335-3638, or yarboroj@michigan.gov.

Spotlight

"We are receiving bipartisan support. Everyone wants a reduction in crime."

*Dennis Schrantz,
DOC Deputy Director*

Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing – In a report to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Judiciary and Corrections, MDOC Policy and Strategic Planning Deputy Director Dennis Schrantz highlighted recent progress of the MPRI. Senator Alan Cropsey, chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Judiciary and Corrections, commended the administration for reaching out to all levels of the community, and especially the faith-based community to achieve the goals of the MPRI. Participants statewide gave testimonials on the progress of the MPRI locally. The presenters included: Kalamazoo Assistant Prosecutor Ramie Almeda, Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey, Macomb County Commissioner William Revior, United Way of SE Michigan Vice President Jacqueline Jones, Detroit Rescue Mission Director Dr. Chad Audi, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency Director Lynn Crotty, Capital Area Michigan Works! Director Doug Stites, and a former prisoner currently employed at the Detroit Rescue Mission, Johnny Smith.

Spotlight



Job development seminar



*Prisoner Art: Super Strut
by prisoner Eric Pasha*

MCCD and the MPRI Partner with VISTA Workers - The Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD) is working with the MPRI to provide local site management and development capacity. Through this partnership, MCCD will coordinate the assignment of VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) workers to each MPRI site where they will assist Community Coordinators.

Job Development and Employment Eligibility Seminar in Wayne County – Transition of Prisoners (TOP) and Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) hosted its first Job Development, Employment Eligibility Seminar in February 2006. The event was coordinated by TOP's Program Coordinator for Day Reporting, Audrey Jenkins, a former prisoner who knows firsthand the difficulties of transitioning into the workforce.

The focus of the seminar was aimed at helping ex-offenders find employment and become self-sufficient. Mark Lang, Vice Chancellor of Resource Development for WCCCD and Developer of the Entrepreneurial Resource Center, gave an insightful and motivational presentation. Former prisoner, Dwight Mathis shared his transition story and talked of his success as an entrepreneur. Kudos to TOPs and WCCCD for a successful event.

Public Policy Associates (PPA) – PPA presented on their work with prisoners who have disabilities and overcoming other barriers to employment during the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference in February 2006.

Prisoner Art Show in Ann Arbor – The Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP) sponsored the *Eleventh Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners* and a series of 12 educational events at the Duderstadt Center Gallery. This nationally recognized show has grown to include nearly 350 works of art by over 200 incarcerated artists. The exhibit and wraparound educational events inspired dialogue between the incarcerated and the community at large.

According to Jamal Biggs, a featured artist, "The exhibit has helped in eliminating the 'us versus them' mindset between the free public and the incarcerated, and assists in facilitating a sense of community that joins both segments of the population."

Helping Former Prisoners Get and Keep Jobs – Jodina Hicks, from the Safer Foundation in Chicago, Illinois, presented at the Lansing Center in March 2006 to over 150 eager participants. Ms. Hicks shared insights on Safer Foundations' successful Ready4Work Model, which combines a work readiness program with effective case management under the guidance of a community-based or faith-based mentor.

Studies show that recidivism is significantly reduced when prisoners participate in work-readiness programs. She continues to lead the charge on prisoner re-entry issues in the Chicago area by adapting the Ready4Work Model that she helped to develop.

Upcoming Events

"Collaboration is going to be tough, but through working together and having challenging discussions, the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative is getting closer to success."

Director Patricia L. Caruso



Director Patricia L. Caruso with Acting Deputy Director of Field Operations Administration John Rubitschun and Captain James Miller from Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility.

2006 RSAT Graduations at Jackson Cooper Street – The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program (RSAT) is a 152-bed modified therapeutic community. It consists of a six-month program, followed by the graduation which marks completion. The program continues with a six-month step-down program for those who choose to continue. Graduations will be held on the dates listed below. Observation and attendance for the Jackson Cooper Street RSAT Graduation is by referral only, due to departmental protocol for facility clearance and space limitations. For more information, contact Frederic J. Goff, Assistant Deputy Warden, Cooper Street Correctional Facility at (517) 780-6938, or Gofffj@michigan.gov.

April 17, 2006

May 22, 2006

July 10, 2006

August 21, 2006

5th Annual Prisoner ReEntry Conference hosted by TOP and Operation Oasis – The largest faith-based prisoner re-entry conference in the country, themed, *The Heart of the Problem*, will be held October 13 through October 15, 2006, in Dallas, Texas. Hosted by Transition of Prisoners (TOP) and Operation Oasis, this conference will offer the opportunity to network with hundreds of people from across the country who serve the formerly incarcerated population, and to gain exposure to national program models across a spectrum of prisoner re-entry areas. Over 20 informative workshops will be available to conference attendees. Highlights of the workshops include: Job Readiness, Transitional Housing, Funding Grassroots Organizations, Victim and Offender Reconciliation, Survival Strategies for Family Members, and Focusing on Female Issues, as well as Sexual Abuse, Self-Esteem and Codependency. For more information, call the TOP office: (313) 875-3883 extension 28, or extension 10. To register online, visit www.topinc.net.





Resources

Articles



- ✚ The Real Costs of Prisons Weblog
Wall Street Journal: States Attempt to Cut Prison Bill, Costs Near \$35 Billion a Year
http://realcostofprisons.org/blog/archives/2005/12/wall_street_jou.html
- ✚ Jackson Citizen Patriot Editorial on MPRI
<http://www.mlive.com/news/jacitpat/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1139418321122140.xml&coll=3>
- ✚ F.Y.I., February 2, 2006, "MPRI Enters Second Phase," Pages 1-3
Michigan Department of Corrections
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/020206_149436_7.pdf
- ✚ F.Y.I., February 16, 2006, "Intensive Re-entry Unit Staff Work to Prepare Parolees," Pages 1-3
Michigan Department of Corrections
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/031606_153663_7.pdf

Resources


Web Sites

-  NGA Prisoner Re-entry Web Page
<http://www.nga.org/portal/?site/nga/menuitem.1f41d49be2d3d33-eacdcbeeb501010a0/vgnnextoid=6c239286d9de1010VgnVCM100-0001a01010aRCRD>
-  Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign
<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/index.html>
-  Michigan Department of Corrections MPRI Web Page
http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,1607,7-119-9741_33218---,00.html
-  MPRI Monthly Legislative Reports
http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,1607,7-119-1441_1513---,00.html


Newsletters

-  Reentry CORE and MORE Update
www.drc.state.oh.us/web/offenderreentry.htm
-  The National HIRE Network News Release - February 8, 2006
<http://e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:2800.-204544743/rid:f0b768c993e64fe4b46f4c78e8178757>

Books

-  *All Alone in the World, Children of the Incarcerated*
By Nell Bernstein

PDF Files

-  MPRI General Information Brochure April 2006
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MPRI_INFO_BROCHURE_GENERAL_155644_7.pdf

State Partner Agencies

-  Michigan Department of Corrections
<http://www.michigan.gov/corrections>
-  Michigan Department of Community Health
<http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>
-  Michigan Department of Education
<http://www.michigan.gov/mde>
-  Michigan Department of Human Services
<http://www.michigan.gov/dhs>
-  Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth
<http://www.michigan.gov/dleg>
-  Governor's Office of Community & Faith-Based Initiatives
<http://www.michigan.gov/outreach>

Contact Us

CORE PARTNERS – STATEWIDE

Public Policy Associates, Inc. (PPA)

119 Pere Marquette Drive, Suite 1C
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 485-4477
Jeff Padden – President
Le'Ann Duran – MPRI Project Manager
Ed Banks – MPRI Evaluation Coordinator
Yasmin Green – MPRI Communications Specialist

Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD)

1115 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 201
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 482-4161
Elizabeth Arnovits – Executive Director
Robb Burroughs – Technical Assistant and Training Associate

Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)

206 E. Michigan Avenue
Grandview Plaza
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-1426
Dennis Schrantz, Deputy Director, Policy and Strategic Planning
Administration; Chair, Executive Management Team

MPRI Round-One Sites

MPRI Berrien County

Peggy Schaffer
497 Waukonda Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 925-3299 x121
SchaffeP@michigan.gov

MPRI Capital Area

Pat Eagan
Capital Area Michigan Works!
2110 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 492-5514
pateagan@camw.net

MPRI Genesee County

Marlene Benjamin
New Paths, Inc.
765 E. Hamilton
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 233-5340 ext. 108
mbenjamin@newpaths.org

Janice M. Gooley

New Paths, Inc.
765 E. Hamilton
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 449-1908
jgooley@ulflint.org

MPRI Kalamazoo County

Milton Wells
8709 Deer Trail
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 598-7718
mhwells@Ameritech.net

MPRI Kent County

Yvonne Jackson
Kent Parole Office
One Division N. W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 304-0519 cell
jacksoy@michigan.gov

MPRI Macomb County

Kathleen Gutowski
Macomb Parole Office
76 S. Main Street
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
(586) 924-4222 cell
kgutowski@hotmail.com

MPRI Nine-County Area

Kirt J. Baab
501 Help
P.O. Box 173
Interlochen, MI 49643
(231) 360-0700
baabkj@michigan.gov

MPRI Wayne County

Tamela Aikens
Michigan Dept. of Corrections
Cadillac Place
3048 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 2-510
Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 456-4511
aikentr@michigan.gov

Contact Us

MPRI Round-Two Sites

MPRI Calhoun County

Sara Wallace

Calhoun Parole Office
135 Hamblin Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269) 441-1469
wallacsa@michigan.gov

MPRI Jackson County

Michael Johnson

Lifeways
1200 N. West Avenue
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 780-3388
johnsonm@lifewaysmco.com

MPRI Muskegon County

Ernie Stacy

Muskegon Parole Office
985 East Barney Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49444
(231) 728-3926
Stacyer@michigan.gov

MPRI Oakland County

Donna Wasiczko

Oakland Parole Office
2709 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328
(248) 681-1705 ext. 260
WASICZDX@michigan.gov

MPRI Saginaw County

Ronald O'Brien

Saginaw Parole Office
1835 Treanor
Saginaw, MI 48601
(989) 233-3914
obrienrt@michigan.gov

MPRI St. Clair County

Michael Berro

Michigan Works! Macomb-St. Clair
100 McMorran Blvd.
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 966-3323
mberro@macomb-stclairworks.org

MPRI Washtenaw County

Mary King

Ann Arbor Parole Office
P.O. Box 7070
Ann Arbor, MI 48107
(734) 327-9717
washtenawmpri@gmail.com